# **DENVER, COLORADO**

# MAYOR'S OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: GENERATION Y2K PROJECT

2000-2001 Grant Amount: \$5 Million

### **City and County of Denver**

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#### **Mission and Vision**

By linking academic, recreation, and employment and support activities to occupational outcomes, the Youth Opportunity Project ensures youth have the skills and the knowledge to make the right decisions about their future

## **Program Overview**

Our goal is to serve a minimum of 1400 youth (both in and out-of-school) annually. As a result of the project, Denver anticipates the following outcomes: an increase of youth employment in the Enterprise Communities (EC), a decrease in the EC drop out rate, an increase in the number of youth from the targeted high schools that enroll in college, vocational education, or other post-secondary educational programs.

# **HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES**

- There is a city-wide network developed among community-based organizations (CBO), schools, recreation centers and other youth agencies, serving YO participants.
- MOWD is collaborating with Annie E. Casey Foundation, to leverage community support with community agency leaders located inside and outside of the EC, to develop a long-term plan to serve youth.
- The program is developing a new Youth Center at the Community College building located in a large, old streetcar barn. The Youth Center will also house an alternative school.
- The program has a strong arts component that includes work experience rotations in arts-related fields.
- The program has a strong sports and recreation component operated by the city's Recreation Department.

#### **KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Community College of Denver: Co-located at the Youth Center
- Denver Indian Center: Serves Native Americans who reside in the target area
- **Denver Public Schools:** Provides support for alternative school
- Mayor's Office of Street Art: Provides work experience for youth in the arts
- University of Denver: Provides College Bound assistance and tutoring
- Mile High Youth Corps: Provides work experience slots
- YouthBiz: Provides work experience for youth
- **Denver Dept. of Recreation:** Provides sports and recreation activities for youth
- Urban Boy Scouts: Provides outdoor activities for both young men and women